

vital connections

FALL 2000

FACULTY OF NURSING

First Paediatric Nursing Research Chair in Canada



(left to right) Professor Dorothy Pringle, Dr. Bonnie Stevens, Dean Gail Donner

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THE HOSPITAL FOR Sick Children (HSC) has announced another first with the appointment of Bonnie Stevens, RN, PhD as inaugural holder of The Signy Hildur Eaton Chair in Paediatric Nursing Research. This is the first Canadian chair of its kind, where the focus is on nursing research and the focus group is made up of infants and children. Dr. Stevens is a Senior Scientist in HSC's Research Institute and a Professor in the Faculties of Nursing and Medicine at the University of Toronto.

The establishment of this chair allows Dr. Stevens, a leader in the field of pain research in infants and children, to continue to conduct patient-focused research on pain assessment and management in infants and children, while working to strengthen a nursing culture that values research-based practice. In addition, she will work with other researchers, clinicians, and administrators to assess the value of home care for infants and children with chronic illnesses.

While medical research has traditionally focused on survival rates

and the severity of illness as clinical outcomes, nursing research is concerned more with the human response to illness and the impact of treatments on quality of life. This focus fits well with Dr. Stevens' research, as she was among the first to come forward with evidence that infants and children feel pain. Prior to this discovery in the mid-to-late 1980s, the vast majority of infants and children receiving "minor" surgical procedures, such as circumcisions, were not given an anaesthetic.

(cont. on pg. 8)

University of Toronto



think
nursing



Message from the Dean

Gail Donner

THE FACULTY
of Nursing at
the University
of Toronto is committed
to improving health care

by deepening and expanding
the theoretical and scientific bases for excellence in nursing
practice. Recently, faculty member and Distinguished
Alumni Award Recipient Linda-Lee O'Brien-Pallas was
recognized for her innovative research in health human
resources. As the recipient of the first Canadian Health
Services Research Foundation Chair in Nursing Human
Resources, Professor O'Brien-Pallas will continue to
provide leadership in helping us understand the issues
related to the supply and demand of nurses so that policy
makers and educators can respond to the public's continuing
need for quality nursing care. We are equally proud that our
faculty are also recognized for their excellence in teaching.
A short time ago Professor Patricia McKeever received
the Ontario Council of Faculty Association's Excellence
in Teaching Award.

Research is a vital link to both education and practice.
Our faculty use research findings to develop "state of the
art" courses that will help our graduates deliver excellent
care and continue to develop as nursing leaders in Canada.
We are proud that our alumni are among the leaders work-
ing to find solutions to improve Canada's health care system
and enhance the quality of patient care for Canadians.

Please join us on Tuesday, 14 November 2000, to
celebrate our achievements, meet the faculty, mingle with
your colleagues and fellow alumni, and learn about our
future education and research initiatives. Your invitation
with details about the event can be found below.

On another note, I am delighted to report that our
Faculty/Staff appeal raised more than \$45,000 with 92%
participation from our full-time nursing faculty and staff
members. Their gifts were designated to various nursing
endowment funds that support our graduate student awards.
It is my pleasure to thank them all for their participation
in our success!

Building on the success of our Faculty/Staff appeal, we
are launching a special Campaign appeal to our alumni.

You will be receiving your pledge materials soon. To ensure
that the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto
is able to increase the number of highly qualified nursing
leaders required to meet the nursing challenge that lies
ahead, we need your help. This appeal offers a wonderful
opportunity to increase the number of awards and the size
of our endowments that fund graduate student fellowships
in perpetuity. Those graduate students are the ones who
will be providing the complex care that many of our citizens
require and teaching the increasing numbers of undergraduate
students needed in the future. I encourage you to continue
your commitment to the future of nursing by making a gift
to the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto. Each
gift will make a difference in the lives of our nursing students.

I hope to see you all at the Dean's Reception next month
and I look forward to the opportunity to update alumni and
Faculty supporters on our progress with plans for the future.

Dean's Reception

The University of Toronto, Faculty of Nursing
welcomes all Alumni and Friends to
celebrate our achievements and learn about
our future education and research initiatives.

Please join Dr. Gail Donner, Dean
Tuesday, 14 November 2000
4:00 - 6:00 pm

East Common Room, Hart House
University of Toronto
7 Hart House Circle

RSVP, acceptances only by
Wednesday, 8 November 2000

☎ 416-978-4786

e-mail:

development.nursing@utoronto.ca

New Chair Rewards Expertise

PROFESSOR LINDA-LEE O'Brien-Pallas has become one of the first in Canada to hold a chair in health services and nursing research through a program newly established by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation in partnership with the Canadian Institute of Health Research and regional co-sponsors.

Dr. O'Brien-Pallas, an expert in human resources issues in nursing, will lead a program of education and

research focused on developing knowledge about health human resources and related policy making. She will be working in collaboration with Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the University Health Network. Dr. O'Brien-Pallas is also co-principal investigator of the Nursing Effectiveness Utilization and Outcomes Research Unit, a joint venture with McMaster University.

Eleven chairs at eight universities were announced on 13 June. Of the

five chairs to be held at Ontario universities, three are at the University of Toronto.



Linda-Lee O'Brien-Pallas

Distinguished Indeed ...



Gail Paech

THE FACULTY OF Nursing Alumni Association was delighted to honour Gail Dent Paech, BScN, MScN with the Distinguished Alumni Award for the year 2000. The following words are reprinted from Professor Ruth Gallop's nomination letter.

Gail is a graduate of our Master's program and has distinguished herself as a leader in nursing and in health care.

She is known within the health care community in Ontario and in Canada as a committed and creative leader. The nursing profession in Ontario came to know Gail best through her leadership as President of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, and if I had to identify one accomplishment that signified courage and professionalism, it would be her leadership through the Grange Inquiry into the deaths at the Hospital for Sick Children in the 1980s. Gail brought the profession across Canada together to provide unprecedented support - legal, financial, and emotional - to the Sick Kids nurses. This event heralded RNAO's shift from a reactive and often passive organization to a proactive and politically active one.

Gail's other major accomplishment was as CEO of Toronto East General Hospital. During her tenure she provided an example of what kind of leadership nurses could provide in the broader health care system and in a health care

organization. She assumed the CEO position and, despite some of the difficulties it could cause, used every opportunity she could to identify herself as a nurse. This led other providers and administrators to consider nurses they knew and worked with in a new way and to "modernize" their perceptions of the intellectual and political skills that nurses could bring to many situations and roles.

Gail is a very caring and compassionate individual who has mentored and supported many nurses throughout her career. She embodies the values and ideals of the Faculty of Nursing in that she is a rare mixture of intelligence, risk taking, and compassion.

Currently the Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Redevelopment Project for the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ms Paech is leading this project to meet the government's commitment of 20,000 new long-term care beds in the province. Ms Paech lives in Toronto with her husband, George, and their children, Arielle and Ian, who attended the Distinguished Alumni Award presentation. Ms Paech used the opportunity of her Distinguished Alumni Award to make a gift to the faculty and establish the Dent-Paech Nursing Fellowship for graduate students, in honour of her mother. The Faculty of Nursing commissioned a commemorative plaque, which is on display outside of the Dean's office, to permanently honour the recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award. This plaque was unveiled at Spring Reunion.



Sheila Shaw (5T5), Karine Dupuis,
Ann Russell (5T5)



From the Class of 7T5
Nicole Dodds, Jody Sanderson,
Anna Marie Graham



From the Class of 4T0
Mary Bliss, Margaret Allemang

SPRING REUNION 2000



From the Class of 5T5 (maiden names in brackets): Helen (Oldfield) Graham, Beverley (Peach) Coulson, Janet (Zinck) Cluett, Joan (Moggridge) Jones, Joan (Smithson Somerville) Wilkins, Louise (Kent) Hughes, Lois Kavanagh, Joan (Willison) Packota, Barbara (Flint) Walker, Anne (Maguire) Delaney, Ann (Harvie) Russell, Joan (Brennan) Jerrett, Sheila (Kent) Shaw, Agnes (Kinnee) Gelb

ON A SUNNY SATURDAY MORNING, THE THIRD OF JUNE to be exact, we welcomed over 80 alumni back to the Faculty of Nursing to celebrate Spring Reunion and the 80th anniversary of the founding of our Faculty. Our Dean, Gail Donner, RN, PhD, inspired our alumni and guests with her vision for the Faculty's future in her address, *How High Can We Fly: Raising Our Sights*. Here, in photographs and phrases, are some of the day's highlights:

Our many special attendees included, notably, Professors Emeritus Margaret Allemang (4T0), Kathleen Arpin and Helen Carpenter (3T3). Dr. Carpenter was accompanied by several of our alumni, Christina Arnold (3T1), Connie Gray (4T2), and Mary Willet (4T3 & 4T8), who all live in

the same Toronto retirement residence.

We were pleased to recognize the milestone anniversaries that some of our attendees were celebrating, and to present them with the University's official gifts: Margaret Allemang, Chancellor's Circle 60th anniversary medal; Mary Bliss, Chancellor's Circle



Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Margaret Risk (1998), Gail Paech (2000), Judy Britnell (1999)



Jean Anderson (6T3), Dean Gail Donner



From the Class of 6T0
Patricia Nayler Degen, Marilyn Brewer



Lola Sneyd (5T0), Dean Gail Donner

60th anniversary medal; Dorothy Nelson, Chancellor's Circle 55th anniversary medal, and Lola Sneyd, 50th anniversary golden lapel pin.

Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Judy Britnell (6T8), Gail Mitchell (8T8), Margaret Risk (5T8), and Myrna Slater (5T1) joined us for both this year's award presentation to Gail Paech (7T8) and for the unveiling of a commemorative plaque to recognize all previous recipients of the award. This plaque is now on permanent display outside of the Dean's Office.

Alumni came from near and far to break bread (and bagels) with us at our breakfast. The Class of 6T0 drew alumni back from various corners of North America – Patricia Nayler Degen came in from Fairbanks, Alaska, while Marilyn Brewer travelled from Fredericton, New Brunswick. As well, Anna Marie Graham and Nicole Dodds journeyed from Vancouver and Edmonton, respectively, to celebrate with their classmates, the Class of 7T5.



Faculty of Nursing Alumni Association (FNAA) Executive Committee
(standing) Brenda Reid, Mary Nisbet, Dawn Cook,
Jacqueline Willems, Arbelles Manicat-Emo
(seated) Heather Watson, Gabriella Golea



From the Class of 9T0
Carolyn Hague, Sonja Berry, Sue Huang,
Michelle Simpson

The largest single group of celebrants was certainly the Class of 5T5, with 14 attendees. This day was not only a landmark anniversary for them, but also the occasion for the presentation of the inaugural Class of 5T5 Award. The first recipient of the award was Karine Dupuis, a Junior Fellow at Massey College and a student in our master's program. Missed at the reunion were classmates Anne (Mahoney) Hall, Shirley (Stephenson) Lawley, and Elsa (Sheppard) Tafel, who were unable to make the trip into Toronto. Special recognition goes to the following members of the Class of 5T5 who travelled great distances to be here: Beverley (Peach) Coulson from Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia; Joan (Willison) Packota, from Vernon, British Columbia; and their honorary classmate, Lois Kavanagh, from Regina Beach, Saskatchewan.

Spring Reunion 2001 will take place on Saturday, 2 June. If you are interested in becoming your class representative, or would like to organize a class reunion, please call Francine Cohen, Alumni Development Officer at 416-978-4786.

Fulfilling a Need: Home Care Research

OVER THE PAST DECADE, FISCAL PRESSURES TOGETHER with advances in medicine and technology have transformed the institutional side of health care in Canada. In 1995 there were 30% fewer beds in Canada's hospitals than in 1985. The number of beds continues to fall with mergers and closures of hospitals and long-term care institutions. As a result, health care practices have changed, and the delivery of a broad spectrum of care has shifted to the family home.

Health Canada figures show that government spending on home care services has increased at an average annual rate of 17% over the last two decades, from \$62.3 million in 1975 to more than \$2.1 billion this year. Despite this rapid growth and the subsequent increase in expenditures, very little research in this crucial area has been conducted in Canada.

Recent health care restructuring and the growth of home health care raise a number of issues. For example, who pays for the care of people who receive treatment they formerly would have received in hospital? The Home Care Evaluation and Research Centre, a joint program of the Faculty of Nursing and Department of Health Administration in the Faculty of Medicine, is the first centre of its kind in Canada to systematically address questions relating to the costs and consequences of home care service provision. "We know little about the effects of health system restructuring and about

the costs and consequences of the array of services received at home," said Professor Patricia McKeever of Nursing, who is a co-director of the Centre along with Professor Peter Coyte of Health Administration. "The goal of the new centre is to collaborate with others to determine whether necessary services and products can be delivered in cost-effective ways," she added.

The Centre will also examine issues related to the use of

The goal of the new centre is to collaborate with others to determine whether necessary services and products can be delivered in cost-effective ways.

technology in the home, the activities of professionals and caregivers; approaches to funding; range of use, out-

comes, and cost of home care services; the suitability of the home as the site for care; and associated policy implications.

A study conducted by Peter Coyte found that federal and provincial governments need to boost home care spending by \$700 million to give residents in all regions equal access to home care services. Figures from Health Canada's Health Systems and Policy Division were analyzed and showed that all provinces, except Newfoundland, (cont. on pg. 7)

The Advantage of Donating Stocks

MANY INDIVIDUALS ARE LOOKING FOR innovative ways to donate to their favourite charitable organizations. One alternative is to gift publicly traded stocks (also known as securities). Instead of selling the stock to generate the cash to donate, you are often better off to donate the shares directly to the charity. You can thereby take advantage of a rule that provides preferential tax treatment when securities are donated directly to a charitable organization, such as the U of T. This alternative works well for donors wishing to reduce a growing tax liability in their investment portfolio. Eligible securities are traded on Canadian, American, and/or major international exchanges.

Normally when you sell an asset, such as a share in Bell Canada, for example, you pay tax on 66.67% of

the capital gain, which is the difference between what you sell the share for and the amount you originally paid for it. However, if you donate the share directly to the charitable organization, you pay tax on only 33.33% of this gain. This difference represents a 50% reduction in the tax you would have paid on the sale of those shares.

The University of Toronto will issue a donation receipt for the closing market value of the shares on the day they are received into our accounts (electronic transfer) or at our offices (certificate form). We would be pleased to provide personalized instructions for making your gift of stock.

Donating stocks is a win-win situation. But, you may have only until 31 December 2001 to take advantage of this preferential tax treatment, unless the government provides an extension.

Great Nursing Students Deserve Great Alumni Support



Gaby Golea

GREETINGS! MY NAME is Gabriella ("Gaby") Golea and I am

honoured to have been elected President of the Faculty of Nursing Alumni Association at our recent Spring Reunion.

Let me tell you a bit about myself. I obtained my BScN in 1984 and became an RN at that time. After completing a Certificate

in Gerontology, I earned my MN from University of Toronto's Faculty of Nursing. A member of Sigma Theta Tau, Lambda Pi Chapter, I have also been President of the Mental Health Nurses Interest Group of the RNAO. I have held various positions at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre in Toronto, and in my current role as Deputy Chief of Nursing Practice at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), I am responsible for monitoring standards and professional development for the CAMH's 500+ nurses. On a personal note, I could not have achieved my professional success without the support of my husband, Tony. Married in 1991, we currently live in Mississauga.

Students must be a focus of the Alumni Association, for today's students are tomorrow's nursing leaders. The Faculty's success is dependent upon their individual successes. One important way that we can assist students is to act as mentors for them. During my term of office, I plan to launch a mentorship program. This plan, which would pair current students with experienced alumni practising in the field, is in the initial development stages. If you have ideas to contribute to the program's design, I would love to hear from you.

The calibre of today's students is a reflection of our exceptional alumni base. Another important way that the alumni can help the students of today, and of the future, is to make a donation to the Faculty's endowment fund in support of student aid. Although many of our students receive some form of financial aid, there is a great need to offer more assistance. We must see to it that tomorrow's nursing leaders are not denied their education for lack of funds. A special campaign to endow graduate student scholarships is beginning soon. Let's respond generously and help our nursing students.

What could the FNAA be doing for you? What would you like to do for the FNAA? How can we combine our efforts for the benefit of the Faculty, the students, and

ourselves? Please share your thoughts with me, via the Nursing Alumni Office. You can send your e-mail comments to development.nursing@utoronto.ca or send a confidential fax to Francine Cohen, Alumni Development Officer at 416-946-5798. I welcome your feedback and look forward to meeting you at the Dean's Reception in November.

upcoming events

Please visit our website at www.nursing.utoronto.ca for more details regarding these and other events.

DEAN'S RECEPTION
Tuesday, 14 November 2000

**HEALTH CARE IN A
COMPLEX WORLD:
AN INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH CONFERENCE**
3-4 May 2001



SPRING REUNION
Saturday, 2 June 2001

(Fulfilling a Need, cont. from pg. 6)

require significant additional funds to match home care spending in Ontario. Funding would need to more than double in Quebec and more than triple in Prince Edward Island to match Ontario's levels while Alberta and British Columbia require a 50% increase in funding. Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick recorded the most significant funding increases, while Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, and Quebec had the lowest rates of growth.

Additional information about the Centre's activities are available on the internet at <http://www.hcerc.utoronto.ca> or from Jan Campbell, Executive Director of the Home Care Evaluation and Research Centre at 416-978-5627.

(First Paediatric, cont. from pg. 1)

Dr. Stevens' work in this area soon became widely followed. "Dr. Stevens has an established reputation as a leader in the field of pain research in infants and children," said Dr. Alan Goldbloom, Senior Vice-President of Clinical and Academic Affairs at HSC. "This is an incredibly important appointment as nursing research continues to grow and develop, and as we move forward and act on our vision of nursing care for the future."

The establishment of the chair was made possible through a generous philanthropic gift made by the Eaton family through The Eaton Foundation. Established in 1958 as a private charitable foundation, The Eaton Foundation has donated in excess of \$30 million throughout the last 30 years to thousands of charities in hundreds of communities all across Canada.

According to Dianne Lister, President and C.E.O, The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation (HSCF), "This type of gift from the private sector sends a positive and important message about the future of paediatric nursing research. The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation, through our national grants program, has been a leader in fostering and supporting academic training and research grants for nurses since the mid-1980s. We see this gift as a means to continue the great work our nurses are doing."

The establishment of an endowed chair provides stable, long-term funding to the chair holder. In the case of a nursing research chair, it ensures that the research taking place at Sick Kids considers how treatments impact quality of life and how patients respond to illness – two important components of future wellness.

*Laurel Keenan, Public Affairs
The Hospital for Sick Children
Adapted with Permission*

A Bequest for Nursing

Every bequest, regardless of its size, is welcome and will help the Faculty of Nursing meet the challenges and take advantage of the many opportunities that lie ahead.

We would be delighted to discuss various funding options with you in strict confidence. To inquire, or to request a free Ways of Giving kit, please contact:

*Tina Leslie
416-978-2861
t.leslie@utoronto.ca*



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University of Toronto
50 St. George Street
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M5S 3H4
416-946-7097

development.nursing@utoronto.ca
www.nursing.utoronto.ca

DEAN
Gail Donner, RN, PhD

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND
ALUMNI RELATIONS
Tina Leslie, CFRE

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
Barbara Bauer
Joanna Carson
Francine Cohen

DESIGN
Luisa De Vito
James Ireland Design Inc.

PHOTOS
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Mark Sawyer, Photographer
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